



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JAN

25 Jan 2025 SGS Membership Meeting

1:30-4:00 pm, Palm Harbor Library

1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program

In-Person Speaker



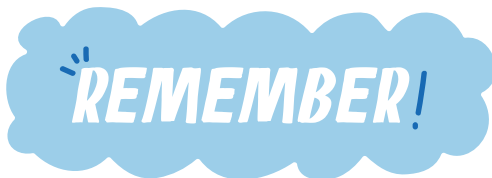
Karen Fortin

Dead Men Do Tell Tales: Recreating a Community Using Death Certificates

Death certificates can tell us a lot about how our ancestors lived and died. When looked at as a group they can also tell us about life and death in their communities. This presentation focuses on an analysis of death certificates from Attleboro, Massachusetts over a five-year period, and shows how they can provide us with a window into the lives of the people who lived there.

For more information go to: www.SGSFL.com

Member Supported. Public Always Welcome



Reminder to all Board Members:
Board meetings are move to the
first **MONDAY** of the month on
ZOOM

Jan 6, 2025 at 2:30pm

**NOTE: All SGS members welcome
to attend the board meetings**

**2024-2025
MEMBERSHIP**

**TIME TO
RENEW**



Go to sgsfl.com and click on
"Join Us" or go to the last
page and fill out the form

President's Message



"I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with time to connect with family and friends. Maybe even time to do a little genealogy with people whom you might not have seen in a while. Who knows where you might find information to help you break through that brick wall!

In November we had a great presentation by Christine Cohen on Immigration and Naturalization. Our December event was a nice holiday get-together with members and I didn't hear much genealogy discussed, maybe a nice break from our hobby.

John Matthews

Look What's Coming in February!

15 Feb 2025 SGS Membership Meeting

1:30-4:00 pm, Palm Harbor Library

1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program

Zoom Speaker

Finding a Birth Mother A DNA Case Study



Glenn York

This is a case study of a woman that was adopted at birth in the early 1950s. I discuss the steps used to analyze her DNA matches, then how those matches and family tree information were used to identify her birth mother and her birth father's family.

For more information go to: www.SGSFL.com
Member Supported. Public Always Welcome



Suncoast Genealogy Society

Beginning Genealogy Course

A Six-Week Course

Instructors: Ann James, Jean Van Horn, Marianne Bradley; Registrar: Shari Harmon

Classes for the Winter 2025 course will be held on six Friday afternoons from 1:30-4:00 pm on:

21 February - 4 April 2025

No class on 7 March 2025



at the Palm Harbor Library in the Conference Room.

Please register for the course with Adult Services at the Library

Please arrive 30 minutes early on the first day for sign-in and fee payment in the Genealogy section of the library.

Cost for the course is \$25.00 - Payable at the beginning of the 1st class
Check or cash only, please.

Please register early as we only have 12 seats available due to the room size.

These classes will teach you the research & documentation process for finding your ancestors and documenting this information in a form that can be shared with your family. We will explore the major research websites (Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org) and give you the "ins and outs" of these sites. We will cover:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Census Records | City Directories | Newspapers | Military Records |
| Immigration | FindAGrave | Church Records | Naturalization |
| Timelines | Various Websites | Sourcing | SSDI |

The focus of this course is U.S. records

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Shari Harmon - (727) 776-0777 Email: sharih1046@gmail.com

Website: www.SGSFL.com

SGS Board 2024-2026

President: John Matthews
Vice President: Eugene Girardi
VP/Membership: Shari Harmon
VP/Programs: Jean Van Horn
Treasurer: Joan Baptist
Secretary: Marianne Bradley
Past President: Robert Pierro
Directors: Redd Slyker
 Ann James
 Kim Croco-Brooks

Committee Chairs & Others

Education: Ann James & Jean Van Horn
Facebook: Beth Bleich
Help Desk: Marianne Bradley
Historian: Ann James
Library Liaison: Peter Cannon
Publicity: Redd Slyker
Newsletter: Kim Croco-Brooks
Registered Agent: Shari Harmon
Sunshine: Mary Jane Hough
Web Development: John Matthews
DNA IG: Robert Pierro & John Matthews

Proud Partner with



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

JON BURR
ROEMARY PARKS
PETER SUMMERS



Questions?

Check our website:
sgsfl.com

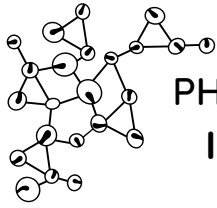
Email us:
info@sgsfl.com

Connect with us on
[Facebook](#)



Suncoast Genealogy Society
 c/o Palm Harbor Library
 2330 Nebraska Ave.
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Genealogy and DNA IG



Monday, Jan 13 @

1:00-3:00 pm

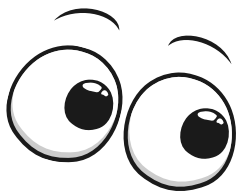
PHL Conference Room

In-Person Meeting

open to everyone

Topic: MtDNA
presented by Rob Jacobson

Next meeting: Monday Feb 10



DO YOU NEED MORE RESOURCES
LOOK WHATS OFFERED AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY

Palm Harbor Library



Available only at Member Libraries*

Ancestry Library Edition

Available anywhere with your library card

Fold 3

Heritage Quest

Available anywhere

Cyndi's List

Instructions to get into the genealogy programs on the library computer

1. Enter your library card number
2. Go to Google
3. On Palm Harbor Library Home page
4. On **BLUE RIBBON**, click on eRources
5. Scroll down to Genealogy and click there

Here you will see:

- Ancestry Library Edition
- Heritage Quest
- Fold 3
- Cyndi's List
- Suncoast Genealogy Society



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society
ONLINE ONLY CLASS via Zoom
Saturday, Jan 18 @ 11am - 1 pm
Topic: Calendar Changes and Movable Feasts Days Explained
Presentation by: Jill Morelli
<https://pinellasgenealogysociety.com/>

Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa
<https://fgstampa.org/>
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
<http://www.jgstb.org/>

East Lake Community Library
A FAMILY SEARCH Affiliate Library

Tarpon Springs Library Genealogy Research Group
Monday, Jan 13 @ 6:30 pm
Topic: Exploring the Library of Congress Digital Collections
Presentation by Karen Fortin
<http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy/>

SAR, Clearwater Chapter
 Members meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Countryside Country Club. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/> for more information.

Genealogy Help Desk
Tues, Wed & Thurs 1:00-4:00 pm
PHL Genealogy Section
Need help researching online, breaking down a brick wall?
Beginners and members are encouraged to stop by!
Come join us at the Help Desk!

DAR, Caladesi Chapter
 Members meet the 3rd Monday of the month Sept thru May, 11:30 am, North Dunedin Baptist Church. Contact Debbie Smyth, dsmyth927@gmail.com for more information

What happened at our November Meeting Naturalization And Citizenship

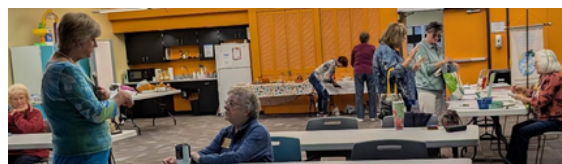


Christine Cohen

Naturalization is the process by which an alien becomes an American citizen. These records can provide a researcher with valuable information such as an ancestor's person's birth date, birth location in the old country, occupation, immigration year, marital status, spouse information, witnesses' names and addresses. Naturalization and the individual steps to citizenship could be done at any "court of record" of which there were 5,000 in the United States.



Member's gift



**Redd won
Bettinger's
DNA book**



**Beth won
member's gift**



Bob and Rob



THANKSGIVING GOODIES



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CHILLI



Bob & Redd



Eugene



Kathy, Beth, Joan



Redd, Pat, Elaine, Jean



Beth, Joan, Eugene, Peggy, John



Redd & Dan



Peter, Kim, Bob





**Suncoast
Genealogy
Society**
Palm Harbor, Florida

Palm Harbor Library
You. Us. Together.

Getting Back to Basics

Spring Mini-Seminar

Saturday, 22 Mar 2025, 1:00-4:00 pm

Palm Harbor Library - Speaker live on Zoom

\$25 for Members - \$30 for Non-Members



Cari A Taplin

● **Utilizing Ancestry's Databases: Beyond 'Search'**

Learn to utilize Ancestry's databases beyond the "Search" page to improve your research results. Learn about their card catalog, lesser-known databases, and tips for deeper searching. Techniques learned are applicable to nearly all online repositories. Most (if not all) online collections have a "card catalog" or "collections" feature allowing you to see the specific databases they hold. Let's explore!

Intermission: Snacks & Prizes

● **Census Hurdles: How to Jump Over or Go Around**

This program shares some tips and tricks for overcoming common and uncommon census research obstacles. Cari will cover topics such as language barriers, literacy, indexing errors, imaging errors, errors (accidental), and errors (intentional). Using examples, she will demonstrate each of these issues and suggest solutions for overcoming them.

Cari A. Taplin is related to Roy Rogers. Or at least that's what her family told her. As a result, finding her true heritage has been her focus since the year 2000. She is a native of Wood County, Ohio but now lives in Longmont, Colorado. Cari holds the Certified Genealogist® credential and has served in a wide variety of volunteer and leadership positions for state, local, and national societies. As the owner of GenealogyPANTS, she provides speaking services. She also lends help and shares her expertise as an administrator on the highly popular Facebook Group "The Genealogy Squad." Cari currently works for Ancestry ProGenealogists. Cari's personal research focuses on midwestern and Great Lakes states. When she's not working on her genealogy, she is a wife, and a mother of two young adults.

For registration information visit: <https://SGSFL.com>



Suncoast Genealogy Society

Spring Mini-Seminar Registration Form

Saturday, 22 March 2025, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

at the Palm Harbor Library, Clearwater, or on Zoom

Register by mail and check. **Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, 14 Mar 2025.**

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

_____ ****Email:** _____

****Email is required to receive the meeting link.**

Please indicate if you are: _____ Member of Suncoast Genealogy Society (SGS) or a _____ Non-Member

If you are a member of another genealogy society, please let us know which one

Please indicate if you expect to attend ___ in person ___ via Zoom

SEMINAR FEE(S): (Add number of registrations) ___ \$25 SGS Member ___ \$30 Non-Member

\$ _____ Check Total Check # _____

NOTE: No refund requests accepted after Tuesday 18 Mar 2025

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: *SUNCOAST GENEALOGY SOCIETY*

Mail check and completed Registration Form to:

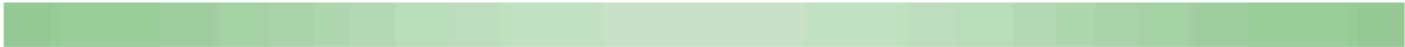
**Shari Harmon
1864 Northwood Drive
Clearwater, FL 33764**

For questions or more information email: **info@SGSFL.com**

Reminder: Registration envelope **MUST** be postmarked by **Friday 14 Mar 2025**



SGS is now offering a DNA Mentoring Program that is available to all **SGS** members. This program is aimed at members just starting with DNA and need a little help. This mentoring will be conducted virtually via Zoom and staffed with knowledgeable **SGS** members. To request mentoring, please contact us via e-mail at “info@sgsfl.com”



Suncoast Genealogy Society, Inc.

PO Box 1294, Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1294

Dues are \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, per year (January-December)

Name: * _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: * _____

Phone: * _____ Email: * _____

Surnames being researched: _____

States/Countries being researched: _____

(please check one below)

I am a beginner intermediate advanced genealogist.

Membership: * New or Renewal Date: * _____

Payment type: * Cash or Check = Required Information

Mail To
Suncoast Genealogy Society
 c/o Shari Harmon
 1864 Northwood Drive
 Clearwater, FL 33764-2462